

March 10, 2014

General Assembly
Government Administration and Elections Committee
Room 2200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: S.B. 351 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED
PRIVATIZATION CONTRACTS.**

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

My name is Charles Lee, I am an Environmental Analyst III with the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection in the Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse. I am a resident of Eastford. I am here to testify **in support of SB 351: An Act Concerning the Assessment of Proposed Privatization Contracts.**

Over the past decade, the use of outside contractors to complete work previously done by state employees has grown exponentially, but this is not because outside contractors are cheaper. A number of factors have made it easier to hire outside contractors.

I manage lake restoration projects with municipalities. Often my work requires me to administer contracts with private sector consulting firms. With this experience, I am not against contracting out when it is for very specific isolated tasks, say for example the design of a lake dredging project. However when it comes to work that needs to be performed in perpetuity, I have found that it is more cost effective for that work to be done by state employees. Not only are the long term costs more efficiently dealt with by using our state workforce rather than outside contractors, the knowledge gained by state employees performing this work builds the institutional memory need to effectively manage our facilities, transportation systems, and natural resources.

As a State Employee and a tax payer I feel it is important that we do not duplicate services that can already be performed by our existing workforce. The General Assembly should want to ensure we are spending tax dollars wisely, and the completion of a cost benefit analysis before hiring private sector contractors is an important step in the right direction. State Employees are willing to stand up to that evaluation.

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